Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Report submitted by Portugal on the implementation of article VI of the NPT and of paragraph 4 (c) of the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, produced by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference

Portugal views regular reporting on the implementation of article VI of the NPT and of paragraph 4 (c) of the Decision on 'Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament' produced by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference, as one of the fundamental elements of a genuinely strengthened review process. Regular reporting helps to create a general culture of transparency and helps to promote increased confidence in the overall NPT regime, thus contributing to transparency, confidence-building and the irreversibility of commitments made in the area of disarmament by States parties to the Treaty.

Portugal therefore welcomes the consensus reached in the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference on the issue of regular reporting by all States parties, and wishes to show its commitment to the above-mentioned principles by presenting its report on the implementation of article VI of the Treaty and of paragraph 4 (c) of the Decision on 'Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament', produced by the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

1. Portugal does not possess any weapons of mass destruction. Portugal has been a State party to the Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC) since 13 January 1993, to the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention (BTWC) since 29 June 1972 and to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) since 15 December 1977. Portugal has always called, in multilateral and bilateral settings, especially as a member of NATO and the European Union (EU), for the universal adherence to all these regimes.

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2. Portugal sees the NPT as the cornerstone of all efforts in nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In that sense, the NPT is a balanced treaty that reflects the need to see gradual nuclear disarmament in the wider context of irreversible and verifiable global disarmament. Portugal is committed to the goal of universal adherence to the Treaty and undertakes focussed diplomatic efforts, together with its allies and partners, to achieve that goal.

3. Portugal believes in the need for prudent nuclear disarmament, which is not an end in itself and cannot be pursued in isolation. Nuclear disarmament must be pursued under international control, while ensuring global stability, security and peace. In this context, Portugal welcomes the significant reduction of nuclear arsenals in Europe since the end of the Cold War.

4. Portugal signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 24 September 1996 and ratified it on 26 June 2000. Portugal strongly supports the early entry into force of the CTBT and has been calling, both in its bilateral contacts and in all multilateral settings, for as many signatures and ratifications as possible. Portugal takes part in the International Monitoring System with three monitoring stations that are in the process of being settled in the Azores (one infrasound monitoring station, one hydroacoustics monitoring station and one radionucloide monitoring station). Furthermore, Portugal has been taking part in Facilitation Conferences (in the framework of Article XIV of the CTBT) for the entry into force of the Treaty, and has been actively engaged in several other political initiatives in support of the CTBT under UN auspices, or in unison with other EU members.